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Integrable Systems Via Inverse Integrating Factor

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1. Introduction

We consider two-dimensional autonomous systems of differential equations of the form

(1)
$$\dot{x} = -y + X_s(x, y), \quad \dot{y} = x + Y_s(x, y),$$

where

$$X_s(x,y) = \sum_{k=0}^s a_k x^k y^{s-k}, \quad Y_s(x,y) = \sum_{k=0}^s b_k x^k y^{s-k},$$

are homogeneous polynomials of degree s, with $s \geq 2$; being a_k and b_k , $k = 0, 1, \ldots, s$, arbitrary real coefficients. Recently, these systems have been studied by several authors (see for instance [1], [2], [4], [5], [11] and [12]), especially in order to obtain information about the number of small amplitude limit cycles and to determine the cyclicity of the origin (see for instance [1] and [12]). Our aim is to find solutions V(x,y) = 0 of system (1) where V(x,y) is an inverse integrating factor (this notion will be defined below). The method consists in characterizing the systems which have an inverse integrating factor. This paper contains a natural generalization of the results developed in [3]. Theorem 1 gives an explicit method for obtaining such inverse integrating factor, which is used in Theorem 2 to construct some particular class of integrable vector fields. The method shows that if V(x,y) is a product of n linear factors, elevated each factor to α_i , we always arrive to a partial differential

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